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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,804	12/17/2001	Nobuyuki Takahashi	001425-121	7371

7590 09/30/2004  
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EXAMINER

MOORE, KARLA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/015,804

Examiner

Karla Moore

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI, NOBUYUKI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to submissions filed 7/6/04 and 8/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 0604
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 02 June 04 has been considered by the examiner.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to fairly teach or suggest a substrate processing device, comprising: a plurality of processing chambers, each of which administers a prescribed process to a substrate therein; a through-chamber which constitutes a vacuum chamber, the plurality of vacuum process chambers are hermetically connected to a perimeter of the through-chamber; a carry system which carries a substrate in sequence, via the through-chamber, to the plurality of vacuum process chambers, the carry system comprises a substrate holder which holds the substrate upright in such a way that a plate surface thereof forms an angle to the horizontal between 45 and 90 degrees; a horizontal movement mechanism which moves the substrate holder via the through-chamber to the plurality of process chambers; and an alignment chamber hermetically connected to the through-chamber; wherein when the substrate holder is in the alignment chamber, **the horizontal movement mechanism is able to move the substrate holder such that a substrate being held in the substrate holder is able to move sideways with respect to a longitudinal direction of the plate surface thereof**, as well as in the longitudinal direction thereof so as to align the carry system with the through-chamber; **and wherein the alignment chamber is arranged between the through-chamber and one or more load-lock chambers.**
4. While the prior art of record does teach or fairly suggest the majority of the claimed invention, the prior art does not fairly teach or suggest the recitations in bold above along with the requisite motivation for combination. In addition to the prior art of record, no other properly combinable piece of art was located. Examiner further notes with respect to the prior art referenced in the most recent IDS,

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specifically the Nakahigashi et al. reference, that while the art is indeed similar, it fails to teach the chamber that corresponds with the alignment chamber of the current invention, as capable of sideways alignment. In addition, there is no reason to consider such alignment in the Nakahigashi et al. reference because the substrate(s) enter(s) the alignment chamber in a position that is also in alignment with the corresponding through chamber.

5. In response to Applicant's dispute of the statement that "the prior art teaches the majority of the claimed invention", Examiner notes that the prior art of record also now includes the Nakahigashi et al. reference supplied by the Applicant in the most recent IDS. Similar to the other pieces of art relied upon, this reference anticipates and/or supplies motivation for incorporating many of the features recited in Applicant's claims. Examiner also notes Applicant's amendments to the claims to clarify and/or point out the differences between the prior art of record.

6. In response to Applicant's remarks regarding the wording in the reasons for allowance of the previous office action, wording was chosen that closely tracks claim 1 because it is the **broadest allowable claim**. Independent claims 6 and 11 (and necessarily, all dependent claims), also include the language (in bold) that is considered to place the present application in condition for allowance and therefore are allowable as well.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karla Moore whose telephone number is 571.272.1440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm.

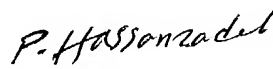
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on 571.272.1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



km  
28 September 2004



Parviz Hassanzadeh  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1763